Abstract for Florida Log 2002
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Title: “Supportability and Supportability Analysis” are not your same old Logistics Support Analysis (LSA).

Historically, logistics planning was a second rate function which only seemed to get major attention, when it came time to cut the budget. One of the most complex tools of the logistics profession was Logistics Support Analysis (LSA). Because it was a series of interrelated, complex and labor intensify processes which was an expensive endeavor, and it was rarely contracted for or implemented correctly. LSA had tremendous potential, yet because many of the required tools and technologies were not available, it never reached it’s highest potential. Instead, it became a mountain of paper, which was usually reviewed once and then put in to the file cabinets to gather dust, until the next update. Sad, but all to true for many programs. Just when LSA was beginning to come into it’s own, with PC based, and relational database driven software which was vastly improving it’s utility and usability. Then low and behold it was gone, all the Military Standards including MIL-STD-1388 1A, and 2B which defined the LSA processes and outputs were no longer required.

Then in 1996 a group of dedicated logisticians working with SOLE in partnership with government, industry developed MIL-PRF-49506 the Performance Specification for Logistics Management Information, and in 1997 MIL-HDBK-502 the DOD Handbook of Acquisition Logistics was released. These two documents, were originally developed to replace MIL-STD-1388 1A and 2B, but over the last few years the scope of their influence has grown significantly. While neither, the 49506 or 502 have received any major updates within the last several years. The top level controlling documents for acquisition within the DOD community the DOD 5000 series instructions, have changed not once but many times. During these changes the importance of Supportability, Logistics and Systems Engineering processes have came to the forefront of acquisition planning. Because these integrated, processes establish the requirements for the logistics infrastructure, which supports the programs through out their life cycle. The life cycle support requirements actually are the controlling factor for the largest percentage of the Total Ownership Costs of any acquisition program. Therefore, the importance of Logistics, Supportability and Systems Engineering processes have become paramount in the planning for life cycle management. Because, a truly integrated Systems Engineering environment, where system design efforts and logistics support resource requirements are considered up front and early, provides a truly integrated Supportability program. A truly integrated Supportability program provides a more effective weapon system to the warfighter, but also saves money in the process.

This paper will draw the distinctions between the classical LSA and today’s fully integrated Supportability programs and their associated Supportability Analysis processes. To provide today’s logistician with the knowledge of the concepts of Supportability, a background in MIL-PRF-49506, and Supportability Analysis, with some practical advise on making use of these tools including recommendations for tailoring and contracting for Supportability. Note: This paper and it’s presentation could be presented as a tutorial for FLO-LOG.